



THE HEALTH
of
SAFFRON WALDEN
RURAL DISTRICT
in the year
1963



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SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL DISTRICT
in the year
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being the
ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health

Irene M. Conway Hastilow,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.
Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;
Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Corporation;
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council;
School Medical Officer, Essex County Council.

together with the
REPORT

of the
Chief Public Health Inspector

A. Armes, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,
Cert. R.S.H. & P.H.I.E.B., Certificated Inspector of Food.
Chief Public Health Inspector,
Saffron Walden Rural District Council.



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PREFACE

Public Health Department,
69 High Street,
Saffron Walden, Essex
Tel.: Saffron Walden 2194 and 3396

To the Chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourteenth Annual Report on the health of Saffron Walden Rural District.

The estimated mid-year population was 18,150 compared with 18,160 in 1962.

The number of live births was 317 compared with 290 in 1962 and there were 6 stillbirths compared with 4 in 1962. There were 14 illegitimate births in 1963 compared with 21 in 1962.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 17.47 and when corrected by multiplying by the comparability factor of 1.12 this gives 19.57 compared with the figure of 18.2 for England and Wales. The corrected Birth Rate in 1962 was 17.89.

The number of deaths in 1963 was 223 giving a Death Rate per 1,000 of the population of 12.29. Multiplying the Death Rate by the comparability factor of 0.87 gives the figure of 11.06 compared with the figure for England and Wales of 12.2. In 1962 the Death Rate for the District was 11.78 and the corrected Death Rate was 10.25.

Although the standard of health in the Rural District was fairly high on the whole, nevertheless 1963 was an extremely busy year. It will be seen that the total number of infectious diseases notified was 487, but of these 412 were cases of measles. This outbreak of measles occurred in the early part of the year and persisted until July. In March a case of typhoid fever, contracted in Zermatt, was found in one of the villages, and the daughter of the patient also became infected. Fortunately both cases were not severe and made a good recovery. Sonne dysentery occurred at one school in May but the outbreak was limited by the excellent precautions taken by the Headmistress and her staff. In June the outbreak of typhoid fever at Harlow caused a great deal of extra work as contacts had to be followed up.

In 1963, as in 1962, only one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified. The visits of the Cambridge Mass Radiography Unit are most helpful in discovering cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and other diseases of the heart and lungs and we were fortunate in that the Unit was again able to visit the Rural District in April 1963.

Apart from illnesses we have to consider injuries and fatalities due to accidents both on the roads and in the home. Much remains to be done in this matter. The majority of accidents in the home could be avoided by a little foresight. Precautions are particularly necessary in households where there are young children or elderly people.

Once again no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria occurred during the year, but I would particularly urge all parents to have their children immunised early in infancy and to maintain their immunity by ensuring that they receive booster doses to protect them against diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw) and poliomyelitis on reaching school age. Vaccination against smallpox should be carried out between the ages of 1 and 2 years and re-vaccination can be performed later in life when necessary.

I would strongly advise all persons going abroad to places where typhoid is likely to occur to be inoculated against typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, at least four weeks, and preferably six weeks, before they leave England. When travelling abroad strict attention should be paid to hand washing especially before handling food. If there is doubt about the purity of the water it is advisable to rub the hands over with disinfectant after washing with soap and water, there are a number of non-toxic disinfectants on the market now which can be used in this way.

Once again the voluntary associations were able to assist the aged, handicapped and needy; in the very severe weather early in the year the work of the voluntary associations was particularly valuable.

I should like to thank, once again, the members of the Council for their continued support and encouragement and all officers of the Council for their assistance. My particular thanks are due to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr A. Armes, and his staff for their invaluable help, especially in the control of infectious diseases. I also appreciated very much the co-operation of the general practitioners and of the schools in the Rural District.

Miss Lamb gave up her post as my part-time Secretary in February, 1963 and Mrs Dianne Redfern was appointed to take her place and has carried out her duties in a very able manner. Miss Lamb served the Council most loyally during the years she was my part-time secretary and I should like to put on record my appreciation of her very hard work and attention to duty. Miss Lamb has continued to act as a part-time Clinic Clerk for Essex County Council and I should like to thank her and Mrs G. Sharp for the help they are always ready to give in taking messages when Mrs Redfern is not on duty. My thanks are due to Dr Miller Wood, the Area Medical Officer, for kindly permitting his Clinic Clerks to assist in this way, it would be very difficult to run the Department efficiently at times without this help.

I am, Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW,
Medical Officer of Health.

SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1963)

Chairman: Mr D. G. Gold

Vice-Chairman: Mr R. C. Heath

Miss M. Baker
Col. J. Bury
Mr J. H. Caton
Mr G. C. S. Curtis
Mr W. Davey
Mrs B. Davis
Mr A. Edge
Mr B. E. Erith
Mr D. J. Evans
Mr A. George
Mr P. Harding
Mr G. W. Harritt
Mr R. C. Heazel
Mr W. H. Jones
Mrs E. M. Keith
Mrs M. Leonard

Miss G. Lempriere
Mrs S. A. Lloyd
Mr G. S. B. McNaughton
Mrs J. M. D. Muir
Commander C. H. Pollock
Mr H. J. Reynolds
Mr R. W. Smith
Vice-Admiral
Sir G. O. Stephenson
Mr D. A. W. Thesiger
Mr W. G. C. Tomalin
Mr A. W. S. Toner
Mrs B. F. Webb
Mr C. Wright
Mr W. Swan

Ex-Officio Members:

Mr G. T. NUNN

Chairman of the Council

Mr J. S. PLUMB

Vice-Chairman of the Council

Public Health Staff of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health

Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

Secretary (part-time)

Miss A. M. Lamb, Senior Commercial Certificate of London Chamber of Commerce (resigned 2nd February, 1963).

Mrs D. M. Redfern (appointed 4th February, 1963).

Chief Public Health Inspector

A. Armes, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.H. & P.H.I.E.B., Certificated Inspector of Food.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

G. E. Hawthorn, Cert. R.S.H. & P.H.I.E.B.

N. L. Good, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.H. & P.H.I.E.B.
Certificated Inspector of Food.

Technical Assistant

J. A. Duerden.

Secretary

Mrs P. E. J. Saich.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

	1963	1962
Area (in acres):	78,585	78,585
Population (Registrar General's Estimate mid-year, 1963):	18,150	18,160
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1963) according to the Rate Books:	6,400	6,387
Rateable Value (as at 31.12.1963):	£527,330	£182,868
Product of Penny Rate:	£2,036	£711

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	1963	1962
Live Births		
Number	317	290
Birth Rate per 1000 population	17.47	15.97
Birth Rate corrected by multiplying by comparability factor of 1.12	19.57	17.89
Birth Rate for England and Wales	18.2	18
Illegitimate Live Births, Number	14	21
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	4.42	7.24
Stillbirths		
Number	6	4
Total Live and Stillbirths	323	294
Rate per 100 total live and stillbirths	18.58	13.61
Infant Mortality Rate		
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	3	7
Total Infant Deaths per 1000 total live births	9.46	21.14
Legitimate deaths „ „ legitimate live births	9.90	18.59
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate live births	Nil	95.24
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	9.46	17.24
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	9.46	13.79
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	27.86	27.21
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	0	0
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	0	0
Deaths from All Causes	223	214
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population	12.29	11.78
Death Rate corrected by multiplying by comparability factor of 0.90	11.06	10.25
Death Rate per 1000 population of England and Wales	12.2	11.9

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1963

Cause of Death:	1963		1962	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0	0
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	1	1	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	5	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	0	4	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	3	0	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	—	0
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	9	15	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	1	0
16. Diabetes	2	2	0	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	16	3	21
18. Coronary disease, angina	22	19	27	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0	2	3	1
20. Other heart disease	11	10	9	12
21. Other circulatory disease	11	9	8	8
22. Influenza	0	0	0	1
23. Pneumonia	7	9	7	6
24. Bronchitis	7	5	5	0
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	2	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	3	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	0	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	4	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	0	—	0
31. Congenital malformations	0	1	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	10	7	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	2	0
34. All other accidents	1	2	0	1
35. Suicide	2	0	4	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	0
Total	115	108	111	103

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases (other than tuberculosis)

	1963	1962
Whooping Cough	21	18
Scarlet Fever	16	43
Erysipelas	3	0
Measles	412	7
Infective Hepatitis	2	5
Diphtheria	0	0
Food Poisoning	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0	0
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	0	0
Sonne Dysentery	16	0
Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0
Virus Encephalitis	0	0
Pneumonia	13	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	1
Typhoid Fever	2	1
	<hr/> 487	<hr/> 90

TUBERCULOSIS

Only one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year and three cases moved into the District. One case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis moved into the District but left in a few months and one case of pulmonary and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were taken off the Register. One person from the Rural District died in hospital from pulmonary tuberculosis.

In 1962 one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified and two cases moved into the District. One case moved out of the District and two pulmonary and two non-pulmonary cases were taken off the Register. There were no deaths from tuberculosis in 1962.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Service—Bacteriological Service. The District is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities. A day and night service is provided by Essex County Council and there is an Ambulance Station at Saffron Walden. Persons requiring an ambulance in an emergency should dial '999' and ask for an ambulance (where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance).

The County Ambulance Service was re-organised in 1962 and it was arranged that all requests for free ambulance transport in the extra Metropolitan part of the County (except in an emergency when the '999' system should be used), should be made to Divisional Ambulance Control, Coval Lane, Chelmsford (Telephone Chelmsford 4801) as the local Ambulance Stations would not be manned for the greater part of the day.

The task of meeting the varied transport requirements for the very large number of patients—some 300,000 annually—in the Division, with a limited establishment of men and vehicles is a very difficult one and hospitals, general practitioners and others qualified to authorise free transport are asked to co-operate in this work by:—

- (a) ordering transport only for those patients who are incapable of making the journey to or from hospital by any other means.
- (b) using local hospitals as far as is compatible with the best interests of the patient.
- (c) giving at least 24 hours notice of all non-urgent transport requirements.
- (d) sending requests for non-urgent transport by post, whenever possible, so as to ease the heavy load on the telephone system at the Ambulance Control.
- (e) indicating in the case of urgent and semi-urgent admissions whether any delay can be tolerated and, if so, giving an estimate of the length of such delay.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person, such as a mental welfare officer.

I am indebted to Dr D. Smith, Medical Director of the Cambridge Mass Radiography Unit for the following Report:

CAMBRIDGE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

RESULTS OF MASS X-RAY

PUBLIC SURVEY—NEWPORT, ESSEX

April 16th and 17th, 1963

Population available: 738	M.	F.	Total
Number attended from Newport	180	221	401
Others attended	15	10	25
	195	231	426

RESPONSE: 54%

Number attended for first time: 311

Number recalled for full size films:	7	7	14
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FINDINGS

	M.	F.	Total
1. Congenital anomalies of the bony thorax	1	—	1
2. Chronic bronchitis and/or emphysema	6	1	7
3. Pleural thickening and fibrosis consequent on previous pneumonia and pleurisy	9	1	10
4. Acquired Cardiac Conditions	5	1	6
5. Healed primary or other calcified tuberculous lesions requiring no further action	3	3	6

No new cases of active tuberculosis were found among 54% of the population examined at this survey.

D. SMITH
Medical Director,
Cambridge Mass Radiography Unit.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 (Section 47)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951

It was not necessary to take Statutory action under these Acts during the year.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

I am indebted to the Mid-Essex Area Medical Officer, Dr J. L. Miller Wood, for the following information:

Domiciliary Visiting by Health Visitors: Health visiting was carried out in the Rural District by the following Health Visitors in 1963: Mrs M. E. Arthur, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate; Miss E. W. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M.(Part 1), H.V. Certificate; Miss A. M. Nicolle, S.R.N., S.C.M.(Part 1), H.V. Certificate; Mrs D. P. Silver, B.Sc., S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. Certificate.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery: These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the area.

Home Help Service: Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Care of Expectant Mothers: An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden. Relaxation classes are held every Monday afternoon.

A Women's Welfare Clinic is conducted in conjunction with the Ante-Natal Clinic. This is not a Family Planning Clinic and advice on contraceptive methods is only given to married women and where pregnancy would be definitely detrimental to health.

Care of Children up to School Age: Child Welfare Clinics are held at Ashdon, Great Sampford, Newport and Stansted as well as at Saffron Walden, and Weighing Centres are held in the following villages: Clavering, Hadstock, Manuden, Stansted, Widdington and Wimbish.

Children are immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis with the consent of the parents.

Dental Service: Treatment is given at Stansted and at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden, and inspections are carried out in the schools.

A Combined Training Centre for mentally handicapped children and adults is situated in Hill Street, Saffron Walden.

A Satellite Child Guidance Clinic is held on the first Monday of each month at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden.

HOSPITALS

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the population of the Saffron Walden Rural District are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital care are admitted to Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of Saffron Walden Rural District. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital, one at Castle Hill, Cambridge, and one at the Herts and Essex General Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor (Mr J. S. Y. Molineux), for the following report:—

Water Supply:

The quality and quantity of water available during the first part of the year was satisfactory, the undertaking being transferred to The Lee Valley Water Company on the 1st October, 1963.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

The design details for schemes at Littlebury, Great Chesterford, Debden, Henham, Elsenham and Ugley, and Newport, were practically completed and were forwarded to the Ministry in the New Year. The two sewerage schemes at Ashdon and Manuden are working satisfactorily, although new connections are slow. The flow to the Stansted Sewage Works has increased to an average of 114,000 gallons a day, and in view of extensive housing development in the village, it has been agreed to extend these works as provided for in the original scheme.

HOUSING

Good housing conditions and the provision of all sanitary amenities are essential if health standards are to be maintained and improved.

In this connection the Council's forward-looking house construction programme and its progress to date, as well as its use of powers available to improve the standards of older properties, is playing a major part in providing improved and suitable accommodation for young and old. The provision of single storey dwellings for the elderly undoubtedly assists in reducing the waiting lists for admission to geriatric hospitals and hostels for old folk.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

(in parts per million)

SOURCE

TEST FOR	SOURCE				
	Hempstead Works	Wenden Works	Henham Works	Newport Works	Linton Works (supplying Hadstock Parish)
Appearance	Clear and Bright	Clear and Bright	Faint Opalescence with a few Particles	Clear and Bright	Clear and Bright
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Turbidity	Nil	Nil	Less than 3	Nil	Less than 3
Odour	Nil	Nil	Slightly "Chlorinous"	Nil	Nil
pH	7.3	7.2	7.8	7.2	7.4
Free CO ₂	26	32	8	30	17
Elect. Conductivity	555	515	520	510	495
Total Solids	400	370	370	350	350
Cl. as Chloride	17	13	15	11	15
Alkalinity (Ca.CO ₃)	260	265	260	260	225
Hardness (Total)	330	315	315	310	300
Hardness (Carbonate)	260	265	260	260	225
Hardness (Non-carbonate)	70	50	55	50	75
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.9	6.3	0.7	6.0	10
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.10
Residual Chlorine	Absent	Absent	0.4	0.4	0.02
Metals	Absent	Absent	Iron 0.16; other metals absent	Absent	Absent

Bacteriological Examinations: All supplies were sampled regularly for bacteriological examination, and where reports proved unsatisfactory, immediate action was taken.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1963

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my 18th Annual Report giving details of the various branches of environmental health work carried out during the year 1963.

As the first section of the report indicates, housing duties make first claim on the department's time and it will be seen that rehousing, action regarding sub-standard dwellings, and improvement grants, have all contributed to the steadily improving social conditions in this rural area.

The broad scope of the qualifications laid down by the Council for admission to the housing list undoubtedly results in the list of applicants being rather longer than in those areas where a minimum period of residence or employment is insisted upon; however this, together with the fact that every effort is made to obtain accurate and up-to-date facts regarding each applicant's circumstances, ensures that all those who consider they should be housed by the Council receive careful and impartial consideration by the responsible Committee.

Meeting the housing needs of over thirty parishes produces many complications regarding acquisition of sites, consideration of layouts and plans and obtaining tenders, etc., but the total programme at present in hand reflects the determination of the Council to meet the needs of priority applicants and those living in "slum clearance" type properties.

Although 100 per cent meat inspection has always been maintained in the district, the new Meat Inspection Regulations will ensure that only meat passed as fit for human consumption will be exposed for sale after 1965, and the inspector's stamp will give the public visible evidence of this.

Whilst information as to the duties regarding infectious diseases occupies only a few lines in the report it should be emphasized that the "field work" of investigation, checking contacts and submitting specimens makes heavy demands on the inspectorate; events during the year clearly show that modern methods of transport can expose even the most isolated and rural area to the danger of an outbreak of infectious disease.

Changing methods of food production and preservation present new problems both in the retail sphere and at the production end and food vendors must be made aware that refrigeration is not a panacea to all storage problems. Experience proves that both industrial and certain modern agricultural processes can give rise to nuisance from noise, effluvia, etc., and planning advisors should take such factors into consideration when dealing with applications for planning consent.

My sincere thanks are due to all members of my staff for their loyalty and assistance; the confidence and support afforded by the Council has been amply demonstrated by the provision of the new office accommodation which is greatly appreciated, as is the co-operation extended at all times by my Chief Officer colleagues and their departments.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. ARMES

Chief Public Health Inspector

September, 1964.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1963

During the year 4,314 visits were carried out and these are classified below. (Figures for 1962 are shewn, in brackets, for comparison).

Housing:

Inspections in connection with Slum Clearance, Repairs, Overcrowding, Improvement Grants, etc.	561	(537)
Inspections regarding Rent Act, 1957	6	(2)
Dwelling houses inspected in detail in connection with Slum Clearance. Improvement Grants, Rent Act, etc.	125	(136)
Investigations and re-inspections regarding Council house applications	748	(478)
Inspections of Council houses regarding transfer, cleanliness, management, lodgers, etc.	309	(163)

Public Health:

Inspections and revisits regarding Public Health Nuisances	79	(70)
Inspections regarding proposed new drainage	270	(160)
Inspections and revisits regarding defective drainage	220	(229)
Inspections regarding proposed sewerage schemes ...	571	(200)
Inspections and revisits in connection with Moveable Dwellings	90	(129)
Visits regarding Infectious Diseases	176	(218)
Visits in connection with Refuse and Night Soil Collection	193	(312)
Inspections regarding Water Supplies (other than main supplies)	41	(18)
Number of Water Samples collected from main supplies, etc.	310	(188)

Food Premises and Food Inspections:

Visits to Slaughterhouses regarding Meat Inspection, etc.	192	(200)
Inspections of Food Shops, Restaurants, Canteens, Licensed Premises, School Kitchens, etc.	122	(77)
Visits to Ice Cream Premises	105	(144)
Inspections of Dairy Premises	11	(6)

General:

Inspections of Factories, Outworkers Premises, etc.	10	(8)
Visits in connection with Rodent Control (not including Operator's Visits)	13	(34)
Visits to Stansted Airport	30	(38)
Miscellaneous Visits	132	(99)
Total number of visits	4,314	(3,446)

The various sections of the work of the department are commented on in the pages which follow.

HOUSING

(a) Housing Programme

In my report for 1962 I called attention to the fact that the Fifth Phase Programme, comprising 93 two-bedroom type bungalows, together with the programme then in hand would provide 253 new dwellings. Carrying out such a comprehensive plan in 28 different parishes produces many problems and the responsible Committee spent a great deal of time dealing with the acquisition of sites, examining layout plans, obtaining Planning and Ministerial approval and obtaining tenders.

The completion of such a programme will deal with "priority" applications, under-occupied council houses and estimated slum clearance replacements and the question of a 6th Phase programme was, therefore, held in abeyance.

However, at the time of writing this report (August, 1964) statistics were compiled in preparation for a meeting of the Joint Housing Phasing Sub-Committee and I have thought fit, therefore, to give these up-to-date figures:—

(The figures in brackets indicate the position in the previous (5th Phase) report):—

Number of existing Council dwellings:—

Four-bedroom type houses	10	} (703)
Three-bedroom type houses	709	
Two-bedroom type houses	110	(110)
One-bedroom type bungalows and flats	38	(29)
Two-bedroom type bungalows and flats	194	(170)
Total	1,061	(1,012)

Total number of applications for Housing Accommodation

508 (480)

Number of "Priority Cases" (these are determined after investigation of the circumstances of each applicant):—

Overcrowded or with "bedroom deficiency"	5	(7)
Applicants (with children) sharing homes	28	(33)
Applicants (without children) sharing homes	17	(22)
Applicants living in sub-standard houses	46	(53)
Elderly applicants unsatisfactorily housed	54	(54)
Miscellaneous (Eviction orders, urgent medical support, etc.)	9	(6)
Total	159	(175)

Construction programme in hand:—

Number of houses approved or under construction	22
Number of bungalows approved or under construction	192
Proposed block of flatlets for elderly people	26
Total	<u>240</u>

Estimated “slum clearance” replacement houses are calculated at 71 and the completion of the current construction programme (240 dwellings) would, therefore, meet this total demand.

Emphasis is given to the provision of bungalows as it is hoped that most of the 124 elderly people now living in under-occupied three-bedroom type council houses will be agreeable to transfer to bungalows or flats thus releasing houses for the younger families on the waiting list.

New house construction, etc., in the District during 1963, was as follows:—

Number of Council dwellings completed during 1963	12
Number of Council dwellings under construction at 31.12.63	40
Number of private houses erected during 1963	63
Number of private houses under construction at 31.12.63 ...	68

Tenders were accepted during the year in connection with the improvement and modernisation of eighteen pre-war Council houses.

(b) Selection of Tenants:

The Tenancy Committee met on 12 occasions during the year to select tenants for 12 new dwellings and 18 existing houses falling vacant.

The housing circumstances of every applicant are carefully considered by the Committee who are given up-to-date information obtained during inspections and interviews.

Tenants were chosen on the following grounds for the 30 dwellings allocated:—

Sharing homes	8
Bad housing conditions	9
Elderly people unsatisfactorily housed	7
Eviction Orders	2
Caravan occupiers	4

12 existing tenants were transferred at their own request to accommodation more suitable to the size of the family. These transfers are analysed thus:—

Transfers from two-bedroom to three-bedroom type dwellings	3
Transfers from three-bedroom to four-bedroom type dwellings	2
Transfers from under-occupied houses to bungalows or flats	7

In addition direct exchanges were arranged between 6 tenants and one tenant exchanged houses with the tenant of another local authority.

All Council tenants were circularised early in the year calling attention to the fact that the Council are anxious to ensure that Council dwellings are not under-occupied. It was pointed out to tenants that, in the case of tenants moving from under-occupied houses to bungalows, removal expenses will be paid and assistance given in the initial cultivation of the new gardens at the bungalows.

The Council also reviewed the qualifications required for admission to the housing list. It was, however, decided to adhere to the original conditions whereby applicants qualify for admission to the waiting list if:—

- (1) They are resident within the Rural District
or
- (2) Either husband or wife have formerly resided in the District
or
- (3) They are employed within the Rural District.

88 names were withdrawn from the list of applicants for the following reasons:—

Purchased own houses	5
Found other accommodation	11
Housed by other local authorities	7
Removed from District	21
Deceased	1
Miscellaneous reasons	13
Granted tenancies	30

139 new applications were received during the year and, after investigation, these were categorised as follows:—

Overcrowded	1
Bedroom deficiency	2
Sharing homes	21
Bad housing (disrepair, etc.)	17
Under formal "Notice to Quit" or Eviction Orders	9
Under informal "Notice to Quit"	3
Medical reasons	5
Requiring better sanitary amenities	31
Awaiting marriage	8
Occupying "tied" houses	18
Occupying temporary accommodation	1
To reside nearer employment	6
Families separated (distant employment, lack of accommodation, etc.)	3
Elderly people unsatisfactorily housed	9
Miscellaneous	5

70 Council house tenants applied for transfer to other accommodation more suitable to their needs.

(c) Council House Management:—

To prevent overcrowding or other unsatisfactory housing conditions each application from Council tenants for permission to house lodgers is investigated; at the end of the year 82 tenants were authorised to take lodgers, the additional weekly charge of 5/-d. being paid where appropriate.

6 tenants were warned regarding cleanliness, etc., and in each case improvement resulted.

(d) Action taken under the Housing Acts:—

Action taken in accordance with the recommendations of the Housing, Sub-Standard Properties, Committee during 1963, was as follows (figures for 1962 in brackets):—

Number of Informal Repair Notices served	19	(24)
Number of Informal Notices complied with	21	(19)
Number of houses fully surveyed for housing defects	125	(134)
Number of Statutory Repair Notices served (Section 9)	6	(7)
Number of houses rendered fit after service of Statutory Notices	1	(3)
Number of Demolition or Closing Orders made	—	(—)
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—	(3)
Number of Demolition or Closing Orders revoked ...	—	(1)
Number of houses voluntarily demolished by owners following informal action or acceptance of Undertakings	—	(7)
Number of houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed during the year	—	(—)
Number of houses demolished in consequence of Clearance Orders	4	(—)
Houses in existing Clearance Areas regarded as demolished and reconstructed	—	(—)
Number of Undertakings accepted from owners (Section 16, Housing Act, 1957)	27	(12)
Number of dwellings rendered fit after acceptance of Undertakings	8	(13)

(Note: The above figures do not include properties surveyed or improved in connection with Improvement Grants—see Paragraph (f)).

(e) Housing Acts—‘Slum Clearance Programme’

The overall progress made, up to 31st December, 1963, to complete this programme is indicated below (figures in brackets show the position at the end of 1962):—

(i)	Houses subject to Demolition Orders and Closing Orders	11	(11)
(ii)	Houses Demolished after issue of Demolition Orders and Closing Orders	26	(26)
(iii)	Houses subject to Undertakings accepted from owners (Section 16,)	93	(74)
(iv)	Houses rendered fit after acceptance of Undertakings	64	(58)
(v)	Houses voluntarily demolished by owners following action under the Housing Acts ...	21	(21)
(vi)	Houses in existing Clearance Areas demolished	6	(2)
(vii)	Houses in existing Clearance Areas regarded as demolished and reconstructed	25	(25)
(viii)	Demolition and Closing Orders revoked after dwellings rendered fit	11	(11)
(ix)	Houses in existing Clearance Areas	15	(19)
(x)	Houses included in Clearance Areas confirmed during 1963	—	(—)
Total number of properties dealt with up to 31st December, 1963		272	(247)
The number of properties included in the ten year programme of “Slum Clearance” submitted to the Minister in 1955 totalled		297	

(f) Improvement Grants:

Every encouragement was given to owners to persuade them to take advantage of Discretionary and Standard Grants which are available for the improvement of dwellings and the provision of sanitary amenities.

85 properties were surveyed following initial enquiries by owners who were then advised as to the works required and the type of grant applicable.

“Approved expenditure” in connection with Discretionary Grants is calculated by the Engineer and Surveyor (Mr J. S. Y. Molineux), and the Council continued its policy of making maximum grants in all approved cases.

During the year ending 31st December, 1963, the following grants were dealt with:—

Discretionary Grants:

Number of Grants approved by the Council	22
Total "Approved Expenses" incurred by owners in approved schemes	£15,577
Total sums of Grants approved	£6,936
Number of schemes completed	37
Total sum of grants paid	£9,353

Standard Grants:

Number of Grants approved	14
Number of schemes completed	12
Total sum of Grants paid	£1,741

The total progress made in both Grant schemes from their commencement up to 31st December, 1963, was as follows:—

Discretionary Grants:

Number of applications received for Grants	445
*Number of Grants approved	425
Total "Approved Expenses" incurred by owners in approved schemes	£298,752
Total sum of Grants approved	£128,427
Number of schemes completed	375
Total sum of Grants paid	£105,181

*172 properties owner/occupied.

253 properties occupied by tenants (including 18 flatlets for elderly persons).

Standard Grants:

Number of applications received	127
Number of Grants approved	124
Number of schemes completed	93
Total sum of Grants paid	£11,536
Amenities provided in the completed schemes:—	
Baths	76
Wash-hand basins ...	82
Hot water supplies ...	87
Water closets	83
Ventilated food stores	56

Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act, 1962

Two applications were received for assistance under this Act; one of the owners concerned was offered a loan in connection with repairs needed.

(g) Rent Act, 1957

The following particulars indicate action taken since this Act came into operation. One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year and an Undertaking was accepted from the landlord.

Number of applications for certificates	13
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	2
Number of decisions to issue certificates:—	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	9
(b) in respect of all defects	2
Number of undertakings given by landlords	5
Number of undertakings refused by the Council	—
Number of certificates issued	6
Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates	2
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	1
Decisions by Council to cancel in spite of objections	—
Certificates cancelled by Council	1

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

All applications for Planning Permission in respect of caravans are investigated by this department so that information is available when successful applicants approach the Council for licences under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

At the end of the year 21 licences relating to individual caravans were in force under the latter Act, and 4 sites licensed for more than one caravan; 2 of these were in respect of holiday camping sites.

4 unlicensed caravan sites were discovered and three of these were cleared following informal action; warning of prosecution was sent to the owner of the remaining site at the end of the year.

Seven groups of itinerant van dwellers were persuaded to move on after repeated visits and warnings.

Another survey of the District was carried out in November at the request of the Planning Authorities when it was found that there were 13 caravans, situated in two parishes, occupied by itinerant van dwellers.

WATER SUPPLIES

Full chemical examinations of all public supplies were carried out during the year and the analyst's reports were satisfactory in every case. In addition all such supplies are chlorinated and samples are submitted for bacteriological investigation at regular intervals.

The following table gives a summary of bacteriological reports:—

Supply	No. of Samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination	Number complying with standard	Number found not to comply with standard
Stansted Area (Stansted Works)	67	60	7
Southern Area (Henham Works)	38	36	2
Central Area (Newport Works)	41	41	—
Western Area (Wenden Works)	66	65	1
Eastern Area (Hempstead Works)	38	38	—
Hadstock (South Cambs. R.D.C.)	15	15	—
Elsenham (Private supply)	31	29	2
Totals	296	284	12

The bacterial counts of those samples not complying with the standard were small; in each case re-sampling proved satisfactory.

Following an investigation of a private bore supplying a group of houses it was felt that there might be a danger of pollution by drainage from nearby dwellings. The immediate co-operation of the owner resulted in the installation of chlorinating apparatus and all samples taken since have proved satisfactory.

In accordance with the Ministry's scheme for the grouping of water supply undertakings, the Council negotiated the sale of its water undertaking to the Lee Valley Water Co., and the transfer took place on 1st October, 1963.

In co-operation with the Chief Bacteriologist of the Company samples of water supplied to the District will be taken at regular intervals for bacteriological examination and a chemical analysis will be carried out at least once yearly; the residual chlorine content of the water will also be checked.

The Council agreed to support the Essex County Council in their proposal to arrange for the fluoride content of the water to be increased to 1 part per million.

In connection with duties at Stansted Airport samples of drinking water were taken from water points on aircraft and the operators concerned were subsequently advised to indicate clearly taps which were to be used for drinking supplies only.

Swimming Pools:—

There are no public swimming pools in the District but samples were taken at intervals from a school swimming pool and these proved satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The provision of sewerage and sewage disposal works in the parish of Ashdon was completed early in the year.

Further details were received from the Consulting Engineers regarding the comprehensive scheme for the villages of Elsenham, Henham and Ugley, and the report on the construction of new sewage disposal works for the parish of Newport was approved; this report included details of proposed sewerage for the Bury Water Lane area of the village.

In co-operation with South Cambs, R.D.C. it was agreed to provide for the treatment of sewage from two parishes in that area at the proposed works to serve Great Chesterford.

The Consulting Engineers presented details of the scheme to enlarge the sewage disposal works at Stansted Mountfitchet.

Tenders were accepted for the sewer extensions and the provision of a pumping station to serve the village of Birchanger in accordance with the scheme prepared by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor. The latter was asked to formulate plans for the sewerage of Langley and Pond Street, Wenden Lofts, the enlargement of Clavering sewage disposal works and the replacement of a pumping station at Stansted.

A request was received from the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board for consideration to be given to the sewerage of the village of Clavering.

Surveys of all parishes about to be sewered are carried out so as to provide information for the Engineers and to support the Council's proposals in connection with Ministry and County Council approval; 571 visits were made during the year in this connection.

Site inspections to examine drainage proposals were carried out in respect of all plans submitted for building byelaw approval. Owners were advised in cases where septic tank installations ceased to function. There is no public cesspool emptying service, private contractors being employed by householders for this work.

47 informal notices regarding defective drainage were issued; 42 of these were complied with by the end of the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The private contract for refuse collection continued satisfactorily during the year. All parishes have a fortnightly collection from the rear of premises, aluminium skips being used to convey the refuse from bin to vehicle. Although the latter method may not be ideal it saves "walking time" in a rural district and is far preferable to "kerbside" collection.

The few complaints received are passed immediately to the contractor and are attended to promptly.

Two Parish Councils and a number of private householders sent requests for the Council to provide a weekly collection of refuse and it was decided to consider this matter closely when the contract comes up for renewal.

Four hired tips are used for disposal; these are maintained by the Council with the use of hired mechanical equipment.

The special collection service for large articles of refuse, etc., continued, 133 loads being collected during the year at a cost of £225. Such a collection undoubtedly serves a useful purpose in reducing the amount of junk deposited in ditches and open spaces.

The 101 litter baskets provided throughout the District are emptied during normal refuse collection. These and posters displayed by Parish Councils undoubtedly play a part in reducing the amount of litter thrown down by the public, but there is room for great improvement in this matter and many feel that the penalty (£10) under the Litter Act should be increased and the Act more rigidly enforced. Surely it is not too much to ask for papers, and empty packages, to be taken home in the pocket or car.

Waste paper collected during refuse collection is sorted and baled at two depots and sold under contract to Messrs Thames Board Mills Ltd; a bonus is paid to refuse collectors and tip employees based on the amount of paper collected.

The income received by the Council for baled paper is given below (previous year's figures are stated for comparison):—

						1963	1962
						T. C. Q.	T. C. Q.
Weight	...	...	...	...	...	98 18 2	110 8 3
Income	...	...	..	...	...	£796 11s. 6d.	£895 18s. 2d.

Weekly emptying of pail closets is carried out by a private contractor, employed by the Council, in the villages of Great Chesterford, Littlebury and in the unsewered portion of Newport.

In other villages the private collection scheme continued whereby occupiers pay the contractor direct, but only 268 householders make use of this service.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's part-time rodent operator carries out rat and mice destruction at private dwellings and business premises. Occupiers of the latter pay the full cost of treatment, but a free service is provided to private householders.

At the end of the year a small van was provided for the use of the rodent operator and this has enabled the work to be carried out more efficiently.

Pest destruction on agricultural premises is carried out by private contractors employed by farmers and it was not necessary to take enforcement action during the year.

Work carried out by the rodent operator during the year ending on the 31st December, 1963, was as follows:—

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (Refuse Tips, etc.)	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)	Total
Total number of inspections (including re-inspections)	22	152	—	8	182
Number of properties found to be infested with RATS :—					
(a) Major Infestations	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Minor Infestations	15	124	—	8	147
Number of properties found to be infested with MICE :—					
(a) Major Infestations	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Minor Infestations	—	1	—	—	1
Total number of properties treated by the Council's Operator (including retreatments)	21	126	—	8	155

Regular treatment was carried out at the Council's refuse tips and sewer manholes and all sewerage systems were test-baited and treated as found necessary.

In addition 13 wasps nests were destroyed at the request of householders who are charged 10/-d. for this service.

FACTORIES ACTS

Details of factories registered and inspections made are given in the following table.

1 outworker was included in lists received under Section 110 (making Christmas crackers)—the outworker's premises were visited during the year.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	3	—	—
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	40	5	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	7	1	—	—
Total	51	9	—	—

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

(a) Meat Inspection:

There is one licenced slaughterhouse in the District, supplying meat to local shops and to premises outside the area. The method of slaughtering (captive bolt for bovine animals and electrolethaler for pigs and sheep) complies with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

100 per cent meat inspection has been maintained, involving 192 visits, and the co-operation of the proprietor and his staff is appreciated.

The Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 came into force on 1st October, 1963, from which date local authorities are statutorily bound to arrange for all carcasses and offal to be inspected before sale; the method of inspection is laid down and carcasses passed for human consumption have to be marked with a stamp bearing the Council's name and the code number of the inspector concerned.

The Regulations also gave local authorities power to make charges for inspection and it was decided by the Council to impose charges, at the maximum rate, as from 1st January, 1964.

The number of carcasses inspected during the year totalled 1,814, and the weight of offal and carcase meat condemned as unfit was 4,272 lbs. This unfit meat is stained before removal by processing contractors.

Details regarding inspection and condemnation are given in the accompanying table: —

CARCASE AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	240	13	9	787	765	—
Number inspected	240	13	9	787	765	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—						
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	46	6	—	35	214	—
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci—% ...	19.17	53.85	—	4.45	28.37	—
Tuberculosis only:—						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	24	—
Percentage of the number affected with tuberculosis—%	—	—	—	—	3.14	—
Cysticercosis:—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

(b) Milk and Ice Cream:

There are 10 registered Dairy Premises (not being Dairy Farms) all of which were inspected during the year.

One complaint regarding the condition of a milk bottle was referred to the authority of the area in which the bottling took place.

70 vendors of ice-cream are registered under the Essex County Council Act and all ice-cream sold from these premises is pre-wrapped by the manufacturers.

One retailer is registered for the manufacture and sale of soft ice-cream but has not yet put the plant into operation.

Visits are paid periodically to all retailers when storage temperatures are checked and samples taken for submission to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge; results of such sampling were as follows:—

M.H. Provisional Grade I	67
M.H. Provisional Grade II	16
M.H. Provisional Grade III	—
M.H. Provisional Grade IV	—

(c) Other Foods:

The following foodstuffs were surrendered as unfit for human consumption following notification by the wholesalers and retailers concerned:—

Meat	309 lbs.
Chicken	6 lbs.
Lambs Liver	8 lbs.
Sausages	10½lbs.
Imported Ox kidneys	56 lbs.
Tinned Pork Luncheon Meat and Corned Beef	182 lbs.
Tinned Veal and Ox tongues	36 lbs.
Various canned foods	130 tins

Samples of cress and water taken from water cress beds proved generally satisfactory.

Three complaints were investigated regarding “foreign bodies” discovered in a loaf of bread, fried fish and a bottle of milk. Proceedings were not taken, but in each case the producer concerned was warned.

At the request of the County Medical Officer visits were paid to general stores and chemists to ascertain whether stocks contained “Soothing Powders” manufactured 10 or more years ago. (These old stocks contained mercury which might be connected with “Pink Disease” in infants). In one instance a small village shop was found to have a number of packets of this old stock and these were confiscated.

Advice was given on several occasions to retailers handling frozen foods particularly where the latter are displayed in open cabinets. Shopkeepers were advised (1) to check the temperature daily to ensure that this is kept at 0°F., (2) to ensure that the cabinet is never stacked above the load line, (3) to carefully rotate stocks to make sure that earliest deliveries are sold first, (4) not to re-freeze and offer for sale foods which have been subjected to a rise of temperature.

(d) Food Premises, Restaurants, Canteens, etc.

The 210 food premises in the district are classified as follows:—

Butchers' Shops	7
General Stores (grocery and provisions)	72
Bakehouses	4
Bakers' and Confectioners' Shops	4
Sweet Shops	5
Greengrocers	3
Fishmongers	1
Poultry Dressing Depots	1
Bacon Curing Establishments	1
Wholesale Provision Merchants	1
Cafés, Restaurants and premises serving meals	18
Canteens	3
Licensed Premises	68
School Kitchens and Central Cooking Depots	5
Schools serving meals	16
Preserve manufacture	1

Regular visits were paid to all restaurants and food preparation premises and in two instances warnings had to be issued in respect of contraventions of the Food (Hygiene) Regulations.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigations were carried out in connection with 18 cases of scarlet fever, 3 cases of sonne dysentery, 2 of salmonella typhi-murium, 1 of infective hepatitis, 3 of erysipelas, and 2 cases of typhoid fever.

Checking of contacts and visits in connection with outbreaks of sickness and diarrhoea made fairly heavy demands on the staff. The outbreak of typhoid at Zermatt made its impact on the District as did the small epidemic of typhoid fever at Harlow; 148 faeces specimens were submitted to the laboratory at Cambridge in connection with work included in this paragraph.

Terminal disinfection was carried out after recovery or admission to hospital of 6 cases of infectious diseases; disinfection of one village school was also carried out. Advice regarding the more important current disinfection (during domiciliary nursing of the case) is always given when investigation is carried out.

Information was received from the Ministry of Agriculture in respect of 5 cases of salmonellae infection in calves, 1 in chicks and another among pigs; in such cases advice is given to human handlers and specimens from the latter and of animal feeding stuffs are usually submitted.

In connection with a report from the Ministry of Health to the effect that salmonellae infection had been discovered in Chinese liquid egg, a survey of the bakeries, etc., in the District revealed that none of this product was being used.

MISCELLANEOUS

20 certificates were issued at Stansted Airport regarding satisfactory disinsectisation of aircraft flying to India or Pakistan; these certificates are required under the India and Pakistan (Public Health) Aircraft Regulations.

Investigations were carried out in respect of three elderly people living alone under unsatisfactory conditions; reports were forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health.

Action was successfully taken regarding the abatement of 14 nuisances arising from polluted ditches and ponds, animals and fowls, refuse burning, manure heaps, an industrial chimney and infestation by insects.

Close co-operation by the owners of a group of large battery houses, used for wholesale egg production, obviated the necessity for formal action; experience proves, however, that this is an "industry" where Planning Permission should not be given until representations have been considered from the Health Department.

The Animal (Boarding Establishments) Act, 1963, came into force during the year and I was, accordingly, authorised by the Council to report upon premises where dogs and cats are boarded so that consideration could be given to the question of the issue of licences.

Although only one request was received for a talk to be given to school-children it is obvious that this is a field of activity which will produce beneficial, long-term results particularly in the matters of personal and food hygiene.

The comprehensive housing filing system built up over the past eighteen years proved its usefulness in connection with reports on 509 properties forwarded to the Clerk of the Council concerning Requisitions for Searches under the Land Charges Act.

A. ARMES

September, 1964

Chief Public Health Inspector